

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 08612 01 OF 02 211345Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-05 COME-00 OES-07 AGRE-00 CU-04  
FRB-03 /137 W

-----072210 211403Z/42

R 211325Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6143  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 08612

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, GE, XB  
SUBJECT: THE GDR AND ASIA  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 08612 01 OF 02 211345Z

REFS: NOTAL (A) BERLIN 7765 (B) BERLIN 8345  
- (C) BERLIN 7303 (D) BERLIN 8126  
- (E) BERLIN 6560 (F) BERLIN 7849  
- (G) BERLIN 5741 (H) BERLIN 5475  
- (I) BERLIN 6028 (J) BERLIN 8085  
- (K) BERLIN 8128

SUMMARY: A SPATE OF CURRENT AND PLANNED VISITS OF HIGH-LEVEL GDR OFFICIALS TO ASIAN CAPITALS HIGHLIGHTS AN APPARENT INTENSIFICATION OF EAST GERMAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. AS REPORTED (REF A) CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND PARTY CHIEF HONECKER PLANS TO VISIT PYONGYANG AND HANOI IN DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR AND WILL PROBABLY VISIT NEW DELHI NEXT YEAR. PARTY SECRETARY MITTAG IS CURRENTLY IN JAPAN FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (REF B) AND FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER WILL VISIT JAPAN EARLY IN DECEMBER. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE HEARD FROM DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE THAT THE GDR WILL SOON SEND A TRADE DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA. THERE FOLLOWS BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GDR RELATIONS WITH SOME OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED AND OTHERS IN THE AREA IN WHICH THE GDR APPEARS TO BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO AN INDIAN EMBASSY SOURCE HERE, FOLLOWING THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN NEW DELHI THERE WAS A PERIOD OF PROBING BY THE GDR TO DETERMINE WHETHER GOOD RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL VISITS DESIGNED, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, TO TEST THE POLITICAL WATERS. AT THE END OF AUGUST, GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 08612 01 OF 02 211345Z

MINISTER KLAUS WILLENDING HAD POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN NEW DELHI AND GERHARD WEISS, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, IN INDIA AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER TO TAKE PART IN THE MEETING OF THE GDR-INDIAN JOINT COMMISSION (REF C), MET WITH PREMIER DESAI. ACCORDING TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY SOURCE, BOTH THE GDR AND GOI WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH THESE TALKS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE HARMONIOUS. THE PRINCIPAL INTEREST, IN BILATERAL TERMS, IS TRADE. SEVERAL AGREEMENTS ON "CONSOLIDATION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS" WERE SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER IN NEW DELHI AND AN INDIAN DELEGATION IS VISITING EAST BERLIN NOW TO NEGOTIATE A TRADE PLAN FOR 1978. FINALLY, HONECKER EXPECTS TO MAKE A STATE VISIT TO INDIA (REF D). ACCORDING TO INDIAN EMBASSY SOURCE HERE, THE VISIT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, BUT WILL CERTAINLY OCCUR. INDIAN SOURCE ALSO NOTED THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF NEW DELHI, RELATIONS WITH THE GDR WERE NOT AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS, AND THEREFORE HONECKER TRIP HAD TO TAKE A LOWER PRIORITY. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THE GDR ATTACHES

SOME IMPORTANCE TO STRENGTHENING BILATERAL  
TIES WITH INDIA.

3. THE GDR'S RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM SEEM TO BE CORDIAL.  
THERE IS A CONSTANT FLOW OF VISITORS BETWEEN EAST BERLIN  
AND HANOI (REFS E AND F). THESE HAVE INCLUDED VISITS  
BY LE DUAN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF  
THE CPV, TO EAST BERLIN IN OCTOBER 1975 (AT WHICH TIME A  
LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS REACHED),  
DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL GIAP IN MARCH-APRIL OF THIS  
YEAR (REF G) AND LE DUC THO AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN  
DUY TRINH (SEPARATELY) IN JULY. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WEISS MET WITH PREMIER PHAM VON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 08612 02 OF 02 231936Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 STR-05 COME-00 OES-07 AGRE-00 CU-04 FRB-03  
/132 W

-----095524 232002Z /40/42

R 211325Z NOV 77 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6144  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 08612

CORRECTED COPY - ADDED LINE PARA 4.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 08612 02 OF 02 231936Z

DONG IN HANOI IN FEBRUARY 1977 FOR TALKS. WEISS WAS IN VIETNAM ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE JOINT GDR-VIETNAMESE COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THE GDR HAS GIVEN ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, APPARENTLY FOR SOME TIME. ACCORDING TO EAST GERMAN PRESS REPORTS, 30 MILLION EAST MARKS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION THIS YEAR FOR ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM WHICH HAS BEEN USED TO PROVIDE PRODUCTION AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND TEXTILES. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN THE GDR AND THE GDR CONTINUES TO GIVE MILITARY AND TECHNICAL TRAINING.

4. GDR RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA SEEM, IN CONTRAST, RESTRAINED, OR AT LEAST LESS BUSY. ALTHOUGH NORTH KOREA APPEARS TO MAINTAIN A LARGER EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN THAN DOES THE PRV (REF H) THE KOREANS DO NOT SEEM TO BE POLITICALLY ACTIVE HERE, AT LEAST JUDGING BY THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF TRIPS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

5. THE MOST RECENT ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES TO NORTH KOREA AND VIETNAM HIGHLIGHT THE DIFFERENCE IN GDR POLICY. THE MESSAGE TO NORTH KOREA IS BRIEF AND REFERS TO THE CONVICTION THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WILL DEVELOP AND DEEPEN. THE MESSAGE TO THE VIETNAMESE IS LONGER, NOTICEABLY WARMER IN TONE, CONTAINS "BROTHERLY" GREETINGS AND STATES THAT THE "TRADITIONAL BROTHERLY RELATIONS AND THE CLOSE COMRADELY COOPERATION" ARE DEVELOPING. ON THE OTHER HAND, SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO MEMBER AXEN MET WITH THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN SEPTEMBER IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS A "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE" AND HONECKER'S BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO KIM

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 08612 02 OF 02 231936Z

IL-SUNG IN APRIL WERE WARM.

6. AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, THE GDR'S RELATIONS WITH MONGOLIA ARE GOOD. MONGOLIAN CHIEF OF STATE TSEDENBAL

VISITED THE GDR IN MAY OF THIS YEAR ON WHICH OCCASION  
A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WAS SIGNED  
(REF I).

7. AS NOTED (REF J), THE BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER  
U HLA PHONE VISITED THE GDR IN LATE OCTOBER AND THERE  
APPEARS TO BE A STRENGTHENING IN PARTY-TO-PARTY  
TIES.

8. HONECKER WILL VISIT MANILA IN DECEMBER AS PART  
OF HIS FAR EAST TRIP. ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMATIC  
SOURCE IN EAST BERLIN, THIS WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO  
BE ONLY A BRIEF TECHNICAL LAYOVER BUT NOW APPEARS TO  
HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO A 24-48 HOUR STOP INVOLVING AT  
LEAST SOME PROTOCOLARY FUNCTIONS, REPORTEDLY AT MARCOS'  
REQUEST.

9. COMMENT: THE CONCURRENCE OF THIS ACTIVE DIPLOMACY  
IN THE FAR EAST AND IN SOUTH ASIA MAY BE THE  
RESULT, IN PART, OF THE ACCIDENT OF SCHEDULES AND  
ITINERARIES. HOWEVER, THE ACTIVITY DOES APPEAR TO BE  
PART OF A SYSTEMATIC GDR EFFORT TO EXPAND POLITICAL  
AND TRADE INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA. WE ARE STRUCK BY THE  
SELECTION OF COUNTRIES WHICH, APART FROM THEIR POSSIBLE  
INTEREST AS TRADING PARTNERS, ALL SEEM TO PLAY  
IMPORTANT ROLES VIS-A-VIS THE PRC. AS NOTED (REF K)  
THE GDR HAS CRITICIZED THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN PEKING,  
APPARENTLY REJECTING PRC OVERTURES TO IMPROVE  
RELATIONS. WE ASSUME THAT THE GDR IS ACTING IN  
CONCERT WITH THE USSR TO STRENGTHEN PRO-MOSCOW AND  
ANTI-PRC ELEMENTS IN THIS AREA. END COMMENT. BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BERLIN08612  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770431-0215  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771137/aaaabesw.tel  
**Line Count:** 254  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f44d3e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 BERLIN 7765, 77 BERLIN 8345  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 511976  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE GDR AND ASIA CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL  
**TAGS:** PGOV, GC, XB, (HONECKER, ERICK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f44d3e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009